

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Environmental Science Services Administration

In cooperation with
Cotton Economic Research and
Bureau of Business Research of
The University of Texas at Austin

CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES NO. 20-41

LATITUDE $32^{\circ} 46'$ N
LONGITUDE $98^{\circ} 53'$ W
ELEV. (GROUND) 1204 ft.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION BRECKENRIDGE, TEXAS

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1938 - 1967

Month	# Temperature ($^{\circ}$ F)								Mean degree days *	Precipitation Totals (Inches)								Mean number of days					
	Means			Extremes			Year	Greatest daily Mean		Snow, Sleet				Temperatures				Max.	Min.				
	Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Record highest	Record lowest	Year		Year	Mean	Maximum monthly	Year	Greatest Depth	Year	Max.	Min.	Precip. 10 inch or more	90° and above	32° and below	32° and below	0° and below	Month		
(a)	19	19	19	19		19	12	30	30	30	30	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	Jan	
Jan	57.9	31.0	44.5	86	1953	0	1966	701	1.35	2.77	1961	1.0	7.6	1966	2	2	0	2	21	*		Feb	
Feb	61.7	35.4	48.6	89	1962	4	1951	513	1.42	2.18	1941	1.0	5.0	1938	3	3	0	1	14	0		Mar	
Mar	69.4	41.7	55.6	95	1967+	7	1962	346	1.13	2.56	1938	0.2	2.8	1962	3	2	1	*	7	0		Apr	
Apr	78.7	52.3	65.5	99	1963+	29	1959+	103	2.78	3.60	1942	0.1	1.9	1938	0	5	4	0	*	0		May	
May	85.3	61.0	73.2	105	1967+	37	1967	17	3.95	3.90	1949	0	0	0	0	6	11	0	0	0		Jun	
Jun	93.2	69.2	81.2	108	1953	47	1964	1	2.97	2.91	1961	0	0	0	0	4	22	0	0	0		Jul	
Jul	97.5	72.9	85.2	111	1954	56	1965	0	2.08	5.85	1958	0	0	0	0	4	29	0	0	0		Aug	
Aug	97.8	71.2	84.5	111	1964	51	1962	*	2.06	2.40	1942	0	0	0	0	3	28	0	0	0		Sep	
Sep	89.5	63.7	76.6	108	1952+	39	1963	7	2.90	3.72	1944	0	0	0	0	5	15	0	0	0		Oct	
Oct	80.1	52.2	66.2	103	1951	22	1957	101	2.29	4.56	1959	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	*	0	Nov	
Nov	67.6	40.7	54.2	90	1965	14	1950	336	1.77	2.08	1961	0.1	3.0	1957	0	4	*	0	6	0		Dec	
Dec	59.1	33.4	46.3	89	1954	10	1953	612	1.24	1.40	1943	0.5	5.5	1939	0	3	0	1	16	0			
Year	78.2	52.1	65.2	111	Aug. 1964+	0	Jan. 1966	2737	25.94	5.85	Jul. 1958	2.9	7.6	Jan. 1966	3	Feb. 1964	45	114	4	64	*	Year	

(a) Average length of record, years.

+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

* Less than one half.

** Base 65° F

1949 - 1967

THE CLIMATE OF BRECKENRIDGE, TEXAS

Breckenridge is the county seat, and the retail and shipping center for Stephens County. Several petroleum-related industries, a large needle-trade industry and a major cattle marketing facility are located here. Stephens County is rolling to hilly, broken by the Clear Creek Fork of the Brazos River. Soils are mostly sandy loams. Over 184 million barrels of oil have been produced since large producing wells were discovered in 1916 (to January 1, 1966). Gas, stone, sand, and gravel also are produced. Hubbard Creek Lake, completed in 1962, covers some 15,250 acres, with a picturesque shoreline of 125 miles, and affords a wide variety of outdoor recreation and water sport activities. The lake is located six miles northwest of Breckenridge.

season, but the average accumulation during January and February is about 1 inch per month. Snow usually melts as it falls only briefly interrupting outdoor activities.

Spring: This is a very pleasant season. March has warm and cool spells of short duration; sometimes temperature changes are rather pronounced. Cloudy weather and steady rain decrease while showery precipitation increases. As the season progresses, cold fronts are weaker and less frequent. Late spring thunderstorms are sometimes accompanied by destructive hail and windstorms. Showers and thundershowers are frequent during the late afternoon or night but usually of short duration. March and April are the windiest months of the year.

Summer: This season is hot. There are few days when the maximum temperature does not reach or exceed 90° F. June may have some very hot days but thunderstorms tend to break the spells of hot weather. July and August are the hottest months. Highest temperatures occur with fair skies, light westerly winds, and very low humidities. There is little variety in the daily weather patterns during July and August. Small thundershowers develop in the late afternoon but dissipate by evening. Mid-day temperatures are too hot for most outdoor activity. Morning and evening temperatures are normally pleasant.

Fall: This is the most delightful season. Temperatures are neither hot nor cold, winds are light, and fair weather persists. Moderately warm weather continues through September. Rainfall increases during September with weak tropical weather systems moving in from the Gulf of Mexico, or occasionally from the Pacific. The weather has greater variety than in summer, yet continues mild. Average rainfall drops off rather significantly after October.

The mean length of the growing season (freeze free period) is 222 days. The mean dates of the last 32° freeze in the spring and the first in the fall are March 31 and November 8, respectively. Mean annual lake evaporation is 64 inches.

The climate of Breckenridge is subtropical with dry winters and hot humid summers. The climate is typically continental with a large variation in annual extremes of temperature. The lowest temperature on record is -9° F, and occurred February 12, 1899. The hottest temperature on record is 114° F, and occurred August 12, 1936. Rainfall averages 25.94 inches annually. Amounts vary considerably from month to month and from year to year. The driest and wettest years on record are consecutive. Only 13.01 inches fell in 1956 while 46.78 inches fell in the following year, 1957. Prevailing winds are southerly the year round. The relative humidity is fairly uniform throughout the year although slightly lower during the summer than in other seasons. Mean relative humidity is about 78 percent at 6:00 a.m., 50 percent at noon, and 46 percent at 6:00 p.m., Central Standard Time. The area receives about 69 percent of the total possible sunshine annually.

Winter: Surges of cold continental air are common. Cold fronts often are accompanied by strong, gusty, northerly winds, and sudden drops in temperature. When these fronts become stationary over Breckenridge, several days of cold, cloudy weather occur. Precipitation is the least during the winter and is associated with frontal activity. It may fall as rain, freezing rain, sleet, or snow. Very low temperatures rarely occur before the last week in December. Snow may fall once or twice a month during the winter

